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Talk programme on International Day of Peace



From Right: UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Robert Piper, Minister of Peace and Reconstruction Hon'ble Janardan Sharma, UNA Nepal President Mr. Dambar Bir Thapa and Executive Director of Institute of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Prof. Dr. Gopal Prasad Pokharel. Photo: UNIC

Kathmandu 21 September: The United Nations Association of Nepal organized talk programme on 'Strengthening the forces against Conflict Poverty and Gender Disparity' to celebrate International Day of Peace supported by UNFPA on 21 September 2008.

The key speakers on the occasion were Nepal's Minister of Peace and Reconstruction Hon'ble Janardan Sharma, Executive Director of Institute of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Prof. Dr. Gopal Prasad Pokharel and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Robert Piper.

The event was coordinated by UNIC Kathmandu in support of UNFPA.

Talk programme on Nepal-UN ties



From Left: Former SAARC Secretary-General Mr. Yadav Kant Silwal, UNA Nepal President Mr. Dambar Bir Thapa, Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon'ble Upendra Yadav and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Robert Piper. Photo: UNIC

on Nepal and the United Nations on 9 September 2008. Among the key speakers were Nepal's Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon'ble Upendra Yadav, Former SAARC Secretary-General Mr. Yadav Kant Silwal and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Robert Piper.

The speakers highlighted various dimensions of Nepal-UN ties ranging from UN's contribution in the development and peace process of Nepal as well as Nepali soldiers contribution in world peace through UN peacekeeping missions.

On the occasion, Mr. Robert Piper was recognized for his significant contributions which he has rendered to the promotion and dissemination of the ideals and goals of the United Nations in different capacities and in different countries of the world.

Kathmandu 9 September: The United Nations Association of Nepal organized talk programme

Similarly, Nepal's Foreign Minister Hon'ble Upendra Yadav was congratulated on his new assumption of his position as the first foreign minister of Nepal from a marginalized Madheshi community.

Students hold peace rally in Capital



School children on Int'l Day of Peace at Bhrikutimandap. Photo UNIC

Kathmandu 21 September: Students of various schools of the capital hold a peace rally in downtown Kathmandu to mark International Day of Peace in the morning. The event was supported by UNESCO. UNESCO Associated Schools Teachers' Association also participated in the rally. The rally was addressed by UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Robert Piper and Head of UNESCO Office in Nepal Dr. Colin Kaiser.

Secretary-General approves \$10 million contribution in aid to Nepal from United Nations peacebuilding fund



New York 9 September: United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has approved \$10 million in assistance to Nepal from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund. Following the Secretary-General's declaration of the country's eligibility last December, more than 20 United Nations agencies came together in consultation with partners to review the peacebuilding challenges ahead in Nepal, and the possible contributions the United Nations system could make as the peace process enters its next phase.



Ian Martin, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), said the peacebuilding contribution was at the core of the United Nations response strategy. "With the elections behind us, we have entered a complex period of transition in Nepal, with heightened expectations from the Nepalese people, two thirds of whom live on less than \$2 a day."

Elections were held earlier this year and in May, the newly formed Constituent Assembly voted in favour of a federal democratic republic. The parties now must decide on the structure of the new State, draft a new constitution, and address the issue of the two armies currently on Nepal's soil, all the while attending to a host of peacebuilding challenges following a decade-long conflict that claimed the lives of more than 13,000 people.



"Strengthening the State's capacity to sustain peace is a priority area for peacebuilding assistance," said Robert Piper, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nepal. A number of potential priority areas have been identified for this assistance with the details of Fund allocations waiting for the new Government to be established and more detailed consultations to take place. Areas that are strong candidates for support include: support to Nepal's Constituent Assembly and promotion of human rights and protection; recovery of communities and areas affected by conflict, for example, through "food and cash for work programmes", school feeding projects, skills training for youth and other initiatives that accelerate the tangible benefits of peace and development; and conflict

prevention and reconciliation issues, for example, assistance to cantonments and reintegration of former combatants and internally displaced persons or support to land and property mediation.

The secretary-General's message on the International Day of Peace 21 September 2008



This year, the International Day of Peace takes on special meaning. This is the year we also mark the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We know that human rights are essential to peace. Yet too many people around the world still have their rights violated -- especially during and after armed conflict. That is why we must ensure that the rights in the Declaration are a living reality -- that they are known, understood and enjoyed by everyone, everywhere. It is often those who most need their human rights protected, who also need to be informed that the Declaration exists -- and that it exists for them.

At the same time, we face a development emergency. This year, we pass the midpoint in the race to reach the Millennium Development Goals -- the common vision agreed by leaders of all countries for building a better world in the 21st century. Reaching these goals is also essential to peace. Yet many countries in Africa are not on track to reach a single one of the goals by the deadline of 2015. That is why, just after the International Day of Peace, Governments, civil society and business will meet at the United

Nations to forge a broad coalition and try to bridge the gap.

There is so much to unite around on this International Day of Peace. To mobilize people around the world, the UN is launching a text messaging campaign. My message reads: "On 21 September, the International Day of Peace, I call on world leaders and peoples around the world to join forces against conflict, poverty and hunger, and for all human rights for all." Together, let us send a powerful signal for peace that will be read, heard and felt around the world.



Span of www.unaids.org.np : Photo UNIC

Kathmandu 25 September: United Nations Information Centre, Kathmandu joined hands with UNAIDS Nepal for the development of UNAIDS Nepal website early this month which has been created and launched on 25 September 2008. It is designed especially for sharing information related with UNAIDS Nepal to the general public and concerned stakeholders. This collaboration is one of a glaring example of UNIC Kathmandu working with UN agencies in Nepal in the concept of working as one UN. UNIC Kathmandu, hereby, announces the platform for HIV/AIDS related information website for global and national purposes.



OHCHR restructuring its office

The UN's human rights office (OHCHR-Nepal) is currently concluding a process of restructuring its office. This 'change process' was necessitated by the shifting political environment, including: the political transition and peace process; the Constituent Assembly election and the writing of a new Constitution, and the need for capacity-building—and strengthening in general—of the human rights protection system, including the National Human Rights Commission.

The restructuring will translate into a more integrated approach among staff in OHCHR headquarters in Kathmandu and its 5 regional and sub-regional offices across the country. Their work will be organized according to the following themes: 1) Economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights, 2) National institutions and 3) Accountability, transitional justice and rule of law. OHCHR will also focus on assisting the UN Country Team to further integrate the human rights based approach to development.



UN issues appeal for \$15.5 million in response to flooding



Koshi Flood Victims. Photo: OCHA

Kathmandu 25 September: The United Nations and its humanitarian partners issued an appeal on 25 September in response to flooding in the east of the country. The appeal seeks \$15.5 million to cover the needs of at least 70,000 people over the next six months.

"We have witnessed the generous response of local communities, who, despite widespread poverty, have helped affected families with food, water, and clothing and who have helped shelter the displaced. I hope that donors will also respond with generous assistance to help communities and local government shoulder this load, and ensure that this humanitarian support continues," said Robert Piper, Humanitarian Coordinator for Nepal. "As it will be many months before these families will be able to go home, their support will prove crucial to stabilize the

precarious conditions of the displaced," he added. The appeal includes 6 NGO projects, and 27 UN agency projects. This response plan comes in addition to Nepal's \$102 million Transition Appeal for 2008, currently only 44.5% funded.

Earlier, on 22 September, The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) today released US\$ 2.5 Million (Rs 184 Million), to support priority life-saving needs to the more than 100,000 persons affected by the Koshi Flood Emergency in Saptari and Sunsari districts in Eastern Nepal. The CERF is administered by the UN's Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and funded through voluntary contributions from governments, NGOs and the private sector. The purpose of the Fund is to provide seed money to respond to urgent humanitarian needs and to bridge financing needs from the wider global donor community.

Koshi Flood Victim Countries. Photo: OCHA



UNESCO holds Workshop on Lumbini development plan



Lord Buddha Birth Place Lumbini, Nepal



Interactive Workshop in progress. Photo: UNESCO

Kathmandu 16 September: The UNESCO Office in Kathmandu and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC), in close collaboration with the Department of Archaeology (DoA) and the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT), organized a two-day interactive workshop on the "Integrated Management Plan for the World Heritage property of Lumbini, the birthplace of the Lord Buddha", on 15 and 16 September 2008, in Lumbini, Nepal. The workshop was addressed by the Minister of Culture and State Restructuring, Mr Gopal Kiranti, the ADB Regional Cooperation Advisor, Mr Binod Karmacharya, the Director General of DoA, Mr Kosh Prasad Acharya and by the Vice-Chairman of LDT, Dr Keshav Man Shakya, which was followed by the representative of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Dr Roland Lin, who recalled the relevant decisions of the World Heritage Committee, and by the Head of Office and UNESCO Representative to Nepal, Dr Colin Kaiser, who outlined the objectives of the meeting. The workshop was attended by a wide range of national and international experts and local stakeholders, including the Lumbini Buddhist institutions and several Asian Buddhist masters and researchers.

Prior to the workshop, a two-day field trip was organized for international participants to the Lumbini World Heritage site and Kenzo Tange's Master Plan area as well as to other major Buddhist sites in the region (Kapilvastu and Nawalparashi Districts). During the workshop, the development of Integrated Management Plan for Lumbini World Heritage site, based on the report "Issues and Management Objectives" prepared by UNESCO consultant Kai Weise from Nepal, in close collaboration with international expert Prof.

Herb Stovel, was discussed in great detail. The issues included technical matters regarding the World Heritage site, revisiting of the Master Plan, other Historic Buddhist sites and local development in the region and management issues. Considerable progress was made on the Integrated Management Plan, and UNESCO will continue its efforts to attain the management objectives in cooperation with its partners.



Women's Leadership Academy



Women's Leadership Academy Programme. Photo: UNFPA

The Constituent Assembly (CA) election was a landmark for Nepal's socio-political transition. There is a need to enhance the role of civil society and elected women in the Constituent Assembly. On August 26th The National Democratic Institute Nepal (NDI) started a CA support programme to create a Women's Leadership Academy for women CA members and women civil society; conduct community dialogues to enable women CA members to interact with their constituents; to provide constituency services; and to work with the Inter Party Women's Alliance (IPWA) and expand their reach throughout Nepal.

Over 80 women CA members from different political parties participated in the 20 day programme of the Women's

Leadership Academy and completed five modules on: Participatory Culture, Political Communication, Constitution Drafting Process, Human Rights including Women's Rights and Indigenous People's Rights, and Gender and Social Inclusion. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Department of International Development (DFID) designed, facilitated and financed the modules on Human Rights and Gender and Social Inclusion.

Cholera mitigation campaign launched



UN-HABITAT Programme. Photo: UN-HABITAT

Guthi, a non-governmental organisation, has launched a cholera mitigation campaign with a slogan of "Build Good Habit, Drink Pure Water" in the assistance of the Nepal government, UNICEF and UN-HABITAT. "Every year, cholera, diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases break mostly in the rainy season. To prevent such diseases, people should apply the techniques to purify drinking water," said experts speaking at the function that began at Ganabahal unit of Nepal Red Cross Society. According the figures from Valley-based hospitals, 4,000 people suffered from diarrhea last year. Among them, 250 people suffered from cholera and five of them died. Most of the victims were children. In the current year, according to records of Teku Hospital, 200 people were found to have caught cholera. "These diseases have been breaking out mainly due to pollution. But we should not keep quiet; we should take initiatives to prevent them," said Dr. Roshan Raj Shrestha, Chief Technical

Advisor to UN-HABITAT. At the same programme, UNICEF's representative Larry Robertson said, "It is necessary to make people aware and keep the environment to check water-borne diseases." Deputy General Manager of Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited Gyanesh Bajracharya said, "If we purify water, we will be able to control the disease to some extent." Chairman of KUKL Management Committee Hari Dhakal said, "Water is not only a source of life, it is also a cause of death if we do not pay attention to purify water." He said that use of disproportionate amount of chlorine would be harmful. The organisers said they were going to set up mitigation camps at 75 places of Kathmandu Valley mobilising their volunteers to distribute chlorine and raise awareness among the people about use of purified water at hotels, restaurants, schools and houses. At the programme, the organisers had exhibited the techniques of water purification, sanitation and management of household garbage. Director of Guthi Anil Sthapit said, "We will go from door to door to make people aware about cholera and water purification technology."

Nepal's Largest Wastewater Treatment Plant with Biogas Reactor constructs



Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, Mr. Kishor Thapa inaugurates Reed Bed Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Photo: UN-HABITAT

Dulikhel Municipality and Shreekhandaapur Wastewater Treatment Plant Users Committee with support of UN-HABITAT's Water for Asian Cities Programme Nepal has established the largest community based Reed Bed Wastewater Treatment Plant (RBT) of Nepal. The biogas reactor has also been connected to the plant for biogas generation purpose. Dhulikhel Municipality and UN-HABITAT jointly organized a workshop in Dhulikhel on September 24th to disseminate the technology for its replication in other municipalities. The representatives from various municipalities and organizations participated in the programme.

Inaugurating the programme, Mr. Kishor Thapa, joint secretary at the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, said that reed bed wastewater treatment plant can contribute in reducing river pollution by effectively treating wastewater before its discharge into water body. He further told that the government will conduct further research on the effectiveness and efficiency of Reed Bed Wastewater Treatment system to improve the

technology for its replication in other municipalities.

Dr Roshan Raj Shrestha, chief technical advisor of UN-HABITAT South Asian Region, believed that Shreekhandaapur Wastewater Treatment Plant will help the community in energy optimization by generating biogas from the waste in addition to contributing in sludge management. He said that the treatment plant will also be supportive in increasing agricultural productivity as the sludge from the digester will be used as fertilizer.

Purna Bahadur Karmacharya, the president of the Users' Committee, informed the participants that committee will supply biogas in the community and the revenue collected from the consumer will be then used for the operation and maintenance of the treatment plant to ensure the sustainability of the treatment plant.



An entrepreneur developed by MEDEP.
Photo MEDEP/GON/MOICS/UNDP

KATHMANDU 24 September: The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), The Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced the 2008 World Business and Development Awards (WBDA) amidst a ceremony held today in New York, as part of the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the General Assembly.



The WBDA are the first worldwide business awards to recognize the crucial role of the private sector, large and small, in implementing the MDGs such as by producing higher quality crops; by expanding electricity to the poorest neighbourhood; by raising awareness about HIV/AIDS with mobile games and by providing credit services to the poor through mobile phones. The WBDA received a record number of 104 entries from 44 countries and while Nepal was not among the 10 winners, the International Judging Panel was greatly impressed by Nepal's Micro-enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP) entry and decided that MEDEP should be listed as one of the selected 'Highly Commended' applications. Ten private sector initiatives that represent outstanding business activities around the world were honoured on the occasion for their outstanding contribution to the MDGs by establishing linkages between core business

practices and the MDGs. Speaking in her address to the Awardees, Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan said, "Today, business leaders like all of you are rewriting the value equation--- to show that true worth comes not only from profits but from making a positive difference."

Likewise, Kemal Dervis, Administrator of UNDP said, "As the world becomes more interdependent, doing business with the poor has shown not only to be a potential boost to a company's competitiveness, but also--- with the right business model--- to be a force in the fight against poverty."

MEDEP, initiated by the Government in 1998 with technical and financial support from UNDP, DFID, NZAID and AusAID, has supported the development of over 30,000 micro-entrepreneurs (68% women, 20% dalits and 67% Youth) and created about 40,000 sustainable jobs essentially targeting the poor and excluded groups in 31 districts. The overall sustainability success rate has been around 95% of all the enterprises established between 1998 to August 2008. The Government, decided to allocate about \$3m in its Interim Plan to replicate the MEDEP model in 75 districts over the period of three years. In the ongoing third phase, MEDEP (2008 -2010) is expected to develop some additional 30,000 micro-entrepreneurs. Nepali women -as a result of their becoming entrepreneurs -have been able to raise their status and identity inside and outside their household, strengthen their role in household decision making and have stated that their income generally goes for better food, clothing, education for their children and other household expenses including their children's marriage. In this process, women have also become more politically and socially conscious of their roles in communities and have been better able to compete on par with their male counterparts.

UN Events Calendar (October 2008)

2 October: International Day For Natural Disaster Reduction

By resolution 44/236 (22 December 1989), the General Assembly designated the second Wednesday of October International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction. The International Day was to be observed annually during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 1990-1999. In 2001, the General Assembly decided to maintain the observance of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction on the second Wednesday of October (resolution 56/195 of 21 December), as a vehicle to promote a global culture of natural disaster reduction, including disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/disaster>

9 October: World Post Day-http://www.upu.int/world_post_day/en/index.shtml

10 October: World Mental Health Day

16 October: World Food Day

World Food Day was proclaimed in 1979 by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It marks the date of the founding of FAO in 1945. The aim of the Day is to heighten public awareness of the world food problem and strengthen solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. In 1980, the General Assembly endorsed observance of the Day in consideration of the fact that "food is a requisite for human survival and well-being and a fundamental human necessity" (resolution 35/70 of 5 December 1980). <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/food/index.html>

17 October: International Day For The Eradication Of Poverty

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty has been observed every year since 1993, when the General Assembly, by resolution 47/196, designated this day to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, particularly in developing countries - a need that has become a development priority. <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/poverty>

24 October: United Nations Day

The anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter -- 24 October 1945 -- has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. It has traditionally been marked throughout the world by meetings, discussions and exhibits on the achievements and goals of the Organization. In 1971, the General Assembly recommended that Member States observe it as a public holiday (resolution 2782 (XXVI)). <http://www.un.org/events/unday/2006/background.html>

24 October: World Development Information Day

The United Nations General Assembly instituted World Development Information Day at its twenty-seventh session in December 1972 with the object of drawing the attention of world public opinion each year to development problems and the necessity of strengthening international co-operation to solve them. The General Assembly also decided that World Development Information Day should coincide, in principle, with United Nations Day to stress the central role of development in the work of the United Nations.



UN Resource Materials



UN Nepal

ADB

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FAO

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ILO

<http://www.ilo.org>

IMF

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UNAIDS

<http://www.unaids.org>

UNCDF

<http://www.uncdf.org/nepal>

UNDP

<http://www.undp.org.np>

UNESCO

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UNFPA

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